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TIMES-NEWS

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Keeping ancient ways present



AARON WRIGHT PHOTOS, TIMES-NEWS

Jim Woods, a retired anthropology professor, gives a demonstration on knapping Sunday morning, Nov. 1, 2026, at the Magic Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall. Knapping is the art of shaping flint, obsidian or agate into tools using a rock or specialized tool.

Anthropology expert describes act of 'grandmothering' at presentation



Jim Woods speaks with Erika Hopkins on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 1, 2026, about ancient indigenous practices at the Magic Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall. Hopkins, a teacher, said that grandmothering could be a great way to "include the youth and include the elderly in meaningful ways."

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TWIN FALLS — There are lessons and practices to be learned from the past that can be applied to the present.

Jim Woods, a retired anthropology professor at the College of Southern Idaho, spoke about Indigenous toolmaking and teaching those skills Nov. 1 at the Magic Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall.

Getting 'grandmothered' in

"How did people learn these simple skills?" Woods asked the Times-News. "Surprisingly, it's from teaching by grandparents."

Woods explained throughout his knapping, foraging and archaeology presentation that typically, with the men hunting and the women foraging, the grandparents who stayed behind taught their grandkids and other children the various survival, hunting and foraging skills needed.

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In anthropology, this phenomenon is called "grandmothering," or the Grandmother Hypothesis, according to Woods.

He was "grandparented" into anthropology when he met, traveled and worked with Don Crabtree, a noted archaeologist who convinced him to switch from studying art to anthropology.

Please see **ANTHROPOLOGY,** Page A4

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Weather
Cloudy with a few showers
High: 46 **Low:** 33
Forecast: A10

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